



# Raider Review



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## Inside the Raider Review



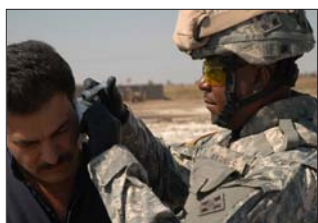
1-66 AR mentors Iraqi army, page 6



Aikido taught to 1st BCT, page 7



Raiders slap on 4ID combat patch, page 8



Medical Team helps locals, page 12



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Edgar Reyes

**Keeping Taji safe...** Cpl. Detrick Harris, gunner with Trp. B, 7th Sqdn, 10th Cav. Regt., 1st BCT patrols the streets of Taji in support of the Iraqi army. The troop goes out on patrols for four day stints, returns for 18 hours and then is back on patrol for another four days.

## IA qualifies at gunnery

By Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt  
*Editor, Raider Review*

As the steel horses of modern warfare crept side by side to their firing positions on the sands of the Middle East, a gigantic roar erupted from the snout of the Russian-made T-72 Main Battle Tank where

125mm rounds explode with pinpoint precision to a designated target a mile away.

As the rounds exploded, soldiers of the 2nd Tank Battalion, 2nd Tank Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division fire their way into the world of a certified tanker in the new Iraqi army at a tank gunnery held at Butler Range, Feb. 16.

"We have been in training for two months to become a tanker in the new Iraqi army," said Ramn Abis, an Iraqi tanker who recently qualified on the T-72 to help his country fight against the Anti-Iraqi Forces. "After this, we have a duty to go down to the units and catch terrorists." (go to page 18, Iraqi) —

# Brigade commander stresses Iraqi people will decide outcome

By Col. James Pasquaretti  
Commander, 1st BCT

**S**oldiers of the Raider Brigade: it doesn't seem that long ago that I was writing my comments for the last installment of the Raider Review. Time does seem to fly over here – I hope it is moving as fast for you as it is for me.



As I move around our area of operation and talk to the Soldiers of the Raider Brigade, I often get asked how we are doing. This is a great question. It's hard to gauge our effectiveness. The measures of effectiveness in counter-insurgency (COIN) are less tangible than conventional warfare that is defined by the amount of ground or battles won or lost. COIN measures of

effectiveness are less definitive.

Before I can answer the question at hand ("How are we doing?") – let's talk about the situation at hand.

I believe I talked last month about the center of gravity here in Iraq – the people. There are roughly 25 million Iraqi citizens – and a vast majority simply want a safe and secure environment, electricity, clean water and medical services. On either side are the two "combatants" vying for the trust and confidence of the 25 million people. On one side are the insurgents. The various groups have divergent visions of Iraq's endstate – but they all seem to believe that creating havoc in Iraq will get them to that endstate. Their numbers are not great, but they have the ability to blend in to the population and initiate contact at their choosing. On the other side are the Coalition Forces and the Iraqi Security Forces in support of the Government of Iraq. The Government of Iraq has a vision for its people – and the ISF and Coalition Forces are working hard to

ensure that vision is realized.

The Iraqi people will decide how this experiment in democracy will turn out. That is why I want us to do the following things in the course of conducting operations. First, as discussed last month, I want you to be as polite as the situation allows you with the Iraqi people you interface with. There are times when you must be direct and threatening from their perspective for force protection reasons. However, we sometimes go out of our way to act in this manner when it is not called for. Check yourself and your buddy on this. Every day we are unnecessarily aggressive (read: impolite) with some of the 25 million people discussed above, we push them closer to supporting the insurgency. Second, I want you to seek interaction with the average Iraqi man in the street or in the country. Talk to him, listen to his concerns, find out what he needs, etc. I've found he loves to let you know about his problems. Some are easily

(go to page 17, respect)

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To contribute to the Raider Review contact the 1st BCT Public Affairs Office or send stories, photos and information to [brent.hunt@BCT1ID4.army.mil](mailto:brent.hunt@BCT1ID4.army.mil).

Maj. Gen. J.D. Thurman  
4th Inf. Div. commander

Col. James Pasquaretti  
1st BCT commander

Maj. David Olson  
1st BCT PAO

Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt  
*Raider Review* editor/  
NCOIC

Pfc. Edgar Reyes  
Staff writer

Pfc. Ross Salwolke  
Staff broadcaster





# Discipline taught by junior leaders

By Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Wells  
*Command Sergeant Major, 1st BCT*

**W**e all talk about the value of a disciplined Soldier or being in a disciplined unit.

It's an often used and sometimes misunderstood word. I'll try to explain what it means to me and how we as Soldiers can instill discipline in our lives. The dictionary's definition of discipline is...



Calm, controlled behavior - the ability to behave in a controlled and calm way even in a difficult or stressful situation.

Making people obey rules - the practice or methods of ensuring that people obey rules by teaching them to do so and punishing them if they do not.

First of all, realize that we're talking about Americans here. A fiercely independent, free thinking citizen who will exercise their God given right to do what they want, when they want and how they want.

They may have learned the meaning of discipline through school and sports but not at the same level as a member of this great Army. A

Soldier behaves himself and takes a disciplined, balanced approach to living. You have to understand your responsibility to yourself, your God, your family and your unit. And how you find that balance is something we as leaders should explain to you.

Some Soldiers have yet to be told the secret to living a full and productive life without the added benefit of becoming a member of America's penal system.

Yes, we have rules to live by and yes, they are more restrictive than in the civilian world. But the nature of our business (closing with and destroying the enemy) demands the highest levels of discipline. Civilian

————— (go to page 16, tulips)

## Raider Brigade Purple Heart recipients



**1st Lt. Peter Calvello**



**Pfc. John Grubbs**



*"Awarded to anyone who has been wounded or killed in action against an enemy of the United States."*



**1st Lt. Neftali Santos**



**Sgt. Deon Mealing**

# Raider Brigade Chaplain corner:

## *Blind golfer challenges Hogan*

By Chaplain (Maj.) Steve Feriante  
*1st BCT Chaplain*

Charlie Boswell is a hero. He has inspired thousands to rise above circumstances and live our true passion. Charlie was blinded during World War II while rescuing his friend from a tank that was under fire. He was a great athlete before his accident and in a testimony to his talent and determination he decided to try a brand new sport, a sport he never imagined playing, even with his eyesight... golf.

Through determination and a deep love for the game he became the National Blind Golf Champion. He won that honor 13 times. One of his

heroes was the great golfer Ben Hogan, so it truly was an honor for Charlie to win the Ben Hogan Award in 1958.

Upon meeting Ben Hogan, Charlie was awestruck and stated that he had one wish and it was to have one round of golf with the great Ben Hogan.

Hogan agreed that playing a round together would be an honor for him as well, as he had heard about all of Charlie's accomplishments and truly admired his skills.

"Would you like to play for money, Mr. Hogan?" blurted out Charlie.

"I can't play you for money, it wouldn't be fair!" said Hogan.

"Aw, come on, Mr. Hogan... \$1,000 per hole."

"I can't, what would people think of me, taking advantage of you and your circumstance," replied the sighted golfer.

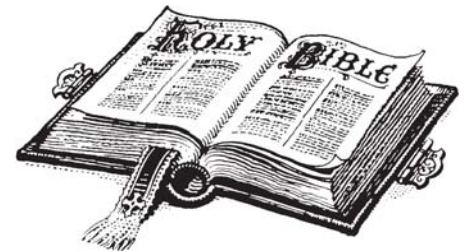
"Chicken, Mr. Hogan?"

"Okay," blurted a frustrated Hogan, "but I am going to play my best."

"I wouldn't expect anything else," said the confident Boswell.

"You're on Mr. Boswell; you name the time and the place."

A very self-assured Boswell responded "10 o'clock... tonight."



## Raider 6 goes live with KWTX Waco

By Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt  
*Editor, Raider Review*

Col. James Pasquarette, commander of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division conducted a live interview with KWTX Waco over the Digital Video Imagery Distribution System above the Mayor's Cell on Camp

Taji, Iraq, Feb. 24.

The live interview was held for the CBS affiliated station for their 10 p.m. newscast and was shown in the Temple, Killeen, Waco, Copperas Cove and Fort Hood, Texas area.

Although the interview lasted only three minutes, families from the Fort Hood area got a glimpse of what the 1st BCT Soldiers have encountered since they have been deployed to



*U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt*

Col. James Pasquarette, commander of the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. conducted a live interview with KWTX Waco for their 10 p.m. news cast, Feb. 24. The interview was shot via satellite from Camp Taji.

Iraq.

"We're doing fantastic," Pasquarette said. "We've been here going on three

months. I couldn't be prouder of the Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team."



# Raider Brigade Safety STOPP: *Safety's an attitude, awareness*

By Frank Partyka

*Brigade Combat Readiness Officer*

**S**afety is not something you can take or leave. It is not an activity in which you participate

in only when you are being watched or supervised.

Safety is not posters, slogans or rules, nor is it movies, meetings, investigations or inspections.



Safety is an attitude, a frame of mind. It is situational awareness and monitoring personal actions, all day, everyday.

Safety is knowing what is going on; knowing what can injure you,

your battle buddy or damage your equipment; knowing how to prevent it, then acting to prevent it.

## Health and safety information on all household products available on Web

What is under your kitchen sink, in your garage, in your bathroom and on the shelves in your laundry room?

Learn more about what is in these products, about potential



health effects and about safety and handling.

Information in the Household Products Database is taken from a variety of publicly available sources, including brand-specific labels and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) prepared by manufacturers.

For information on any product you use or might use, visit the Household Products Database Web site at <http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov/>.

### Coincident or Not ?

If, A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Equals, 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Then,

$$K + N + O + W + L + E + D + G + E \\ 11 + 14 + 15 + 23 + 12 + 5 + 4 + 7 + 5 = 96\%$$

$$H + A + R + D + W + O + R + K \\ 8 + 1 + 18 + 4 + 23 + 15 + 18 + 11 = 98\%$$

Both are important, but the total falls just short of 100%

But,

$$A + T + T + I + T + U + D + E \\ 1 + 20 + 20 + 9 + 20 + 21 + 4 + 5 = 100\%$$

**Safety really is about attitude.  
Make 100% Safe Behavior your choice, both ON and OFF duty**

To do this does not require a genius intellect, a doctorate, or even a great big title or a little bit of rank.

All safety requires is intelligence and the ability to see, hear, smell and think. Ignoring safe practices does not indicate bravery, it indicates only foolishness.

To do things safely and correctly is the mark of a wise person.

**Stop  
Think  
Observe  
Plan**



**Proceed with SAFETY**

**Standards and Discipline are  
the Best Control Measures!**

Raider Combat Readiness

# Iraqi, U.S. Soldiers work together to unify Iraq, stomp out insurgency

By Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt  
Editor, Raider Review

**D**ubbed Operation Arch Angel, Soldiers from the 9th Iraqi Army Division and the Fort Hood, Texas-based 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division teamed up to search a suspected illegal arms dealer in a local neighborhood near Taji, Iraq, Feb. 5.

Even though the operation netted only two suspects for further questioning and a small amount of AK-47 rifles, Operation Arch Angel was the perfect opportunity for the Iraqis and the Americans to hone their skills in their combined effort to fight the Global War on Terrorism.

"I like working with the American Army, and I'm learning a lot," said Akeel Kadum, an Iraqi special forces soldier, who has only been in the new Iraqi army a mere six months. "We



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt

**Iraqi army soldiers get ready to conduct a search of a local dwelling during Operation Arch Angel near Taji, Iraq, Feb. 5. The operation put the Iraqi army soldiers in the lead of searching suspected illegal arms dealers while U.S. Soldiers were in the background.**

work with the Americans everyday doing what we learned in basic training. It's a hard job, but I will stay in the Iraqi army until we (Iraq) are able to defend our country."

The 1st BCT is working closely with soldiers of the 9th IA Div. to teach, coach and mentor them. The Taji-based Iraqi division is composed  
——(go to page 15, operation)

## High adventure for Taji's Gunner Gate

By Capt. Douglas Wilbur  
4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt.

**E**very day holds something new for the "Straight Arrows" of 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery and the Iraqi army soldiers from the 9th Iraqi Army Division who man the checkpoint outside Gunner Gate.

Dealing with the bizarre is their specialty, but it never distracts them from their mission of defending Camp Taji, Iraq.

Gunner Gate is the main gate for Camp Taji, the largest U.S. Forward Operating Base in Iraq and as a result it attracts lots of attention. Therefore the Soldiers on the checkpoint are responsible for

screening the traffic driving by and attempting to get on the camp.

Naturally the checkpoint attracts people requesting help or providing information. In one hour, the check point may meet a man trying to sell parts to scud missiles then someone else comes along with Anti-Iraqi Forces information. Occasionally, they interdict

vehicles wanted by Iraqi authorities, which has lead to the arrest of numerous suspects. The check point has also been targeted by AIF in the past, but has never backed down under fire. Most of the attacks have involved drive by shootings or random sniping, but no one has ever been injured.

——(go to page 14, Iraqi)



# Personnel officer teaches ancient art of Aikido to Raider Brigade Soldiers

By Pfc. Edgar Reyes  
Staff Writer, Raider Review

When most people think of Aikido, the first thing that comes to their mind is the high-impact, jaw-breaking, dislocating an opponents arms, while they are in mid-air smashing an opponent through a table that Hollywood has shown us on screen through actors like Steven Seagal.

One Soldier who has mastered the art of Aikido and has started a class here is Maj. David Nguyen, brigade personnel officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

Nguyen has studied a variety of martial arts for



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Edgar Reyes

From left, Sgt. Shane Hudson, geo special intelligence NCO, Maj. David Nguyen, brigade personnel officer and Capt. Christopher Guillory, logistics officer all with HHD, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. practice Aikido at the Warrior Chapel on Camp Taji, Iraq, Feb. 18.

almost 30 years, which includes Tae Kwon Do and Karate. He was first introduced to Aikido in 1995 and was drawn in by the martial arts philosophy of non-violence and harmony.

In January 2003, he

opened the Fort Hood Aikido Club in Killeen, Texas, where he teaches Soldiers and their families the art of Aikido at no cost. He has also started an Aikido class on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Camp Taji to pass on his

knowledge to Soldiers in the combat zone and to teach them techniques they could use with the equipment they constantly carry and scenarios they are involved in.

"Aikido is good for the military, because of the type of gear we use," said Nguyen. "You cannot really throw high kicks or use fancy techniques. Aikido allows a Soldier to throw his enemy off-balance using techniques that are practical and that use a minimal amount of force."

"I have always been into martial arts," said Sgt. Shane Hudson, geo special intelligence analyst non-commissioned officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st BCT. "It is something fun to do while we are here."  
— (go to page 14, Steven)

## 1st STB MPs making difference in AO

By Sgt. James Real  
1st STB

The Military Police Platoon in the 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division has been on constant combat patrols outside the gates of the Camp Taji, Iraq, area of operations.

They have a vital role in the 1st BCT tactical mission. Their missions range from combat patrols of the 1st STBs area of operations, to being the quick reaction force in case terrorists try to penetrate Camp Taji and they operate the observation posts on Route Cobra.

Although the missions remain the same, sometimes the MPs get the opportunity to work with other  
— (go to page 15, MPs)



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. James Real

Soldiers from the 1st STB, 1st BCT Military Police Platoon pull security operations.

# Raiders slap on 4th ID combat patch

*'Ivy Division' patch worn by Soldiers who have fought in four conflicts*

By Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt  
Editor, Raider Review

**S**oldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division slapped on the distinguished "Ivy Division" patch to their right shoulders signifying they have served in a combat zone at a Patch Ceremony held at Camp Taji, Iraq, Feb. 18.

Most Raider Soldiers are currently serving in Camp Taji in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment is currently supporting the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) out of Fort Campbell, Ky., in another area of Iraq.

"Today, we are awarded the 4ID patch," said Col. James Pasquarette, commander of the 1st BCT. "You guys have earned it and I know you will wear it proudly."

"What I like about the 4th Infantry Division is we are all about good, hard work," Pasquarette added. "For the rest of your lives, when you tell your war stories, you can be proud that you were with the 4ID."

One such Soldier who has earned his combat patch is Staff Sgt. Scott Evans. Evans is serving as a personal security detachment squad leader for the 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment.

"Sometimes we go out at 8 a.m. and other times it varies," said Evans, who is serving his first tour in Iraq. "We've responded to small arms attacks, but luckily we haven't been hit."



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt

**Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Wells, command sergeant major for the 1st BCT puts the 4th Inf. Div. combat patch on Col. James Pasquarette, commander for the 1st BCT at a Patch ceremony held on Camp Taji, Iraq, Feb. 18.**

"I like it," Evans added. "I like the uncertainty of it. I'm an infantryman, so this is what I signed up for. You have to worry about a lot, but it is an adrenaline rush."

What Soldiers like Evans have to worry about is the Anti-Iraqi Forces. The AIF are a group of terrorists dedicated to disrupting the growth of Iraq into a democratically run country. Improvised Explosive Devices are their weapon of choice, but the U.S. Army has taken measures to help protect Soldiers like Evans who have to drive around in the IED laced country.

"Up-armored vehicles are the best thing in the world," Evans said. "I've talked with a lot of people who have been hit (by IED attacks) and they are still here to talk about it."

Another Soldier earning a 4th Inf. Div. combat patch is Sgt. Scott

Drzewiecki, gunner with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 66th AR. The only difference is this is his second combat patch earned with the 4th Inf. Div.

"There are a lot of changes this time around," said Drzewiecki.

"Overall, I've seen a lot of positive things happen over here."

"There is a lot more Iraqi army and the police are out more," Drzewiecki added. "But on the down side, there are more IEDs than the last time."

Although most 1st BCT Soldiers will have different memories of their tour with the 4th Inf. Div. in support of OIF, all can be proud they are now wearing a patch with a long history including combat in four wars, 16 Congressional Medal of Honor winners and 21 campaign streamers on its colors.



# Camp Taji Soldiers entertain troops with cool, jazzy sound

By Pfc. Edgar Reyes  
Staff Writer, Raider Review

**A**fter every hard day of working to bring peace to the Iraqi people, a group of Soldiers unite at the Warrior Chapel to spend their relaxation time practicing on musical instruments for one sole reason: the love of music.

Three Days from Sunday, as they call themselves, is a band of brothers from different units who form up like Voltron and blend their distinct musical backgrounds into an eclectic concoction with a distinctive sound.

The group consists of a drummer, lead guitar, acoustic guitar, bass player, world percussion and two singers.

Their musical influences range from B.B King and John Lee Hooker to Derrick Webb, Buddy Rich and Jimmy Hendrix.

"I've been playing the guitar for a long time," said Sgt. Jeremiah Gunderson, battalion aid station non-commissioned officer in charge and lead guitarist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 66th Armor



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Edgar Reyes

**Sgt. Jeremiah Gunderson, battalion aid station non-commissioned officer in charge and lead guitarist of Three Days from Sunday, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division entertains the troops at the Warrior Chapel on Camp Taji, Iraq, Feb. 12. The band plays a mix of blues, rock, pop and jazz.**

Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. "I approached my chaplain and told him I wanted to play while I was out here in Iraq. I feel like God has led me to pick up the guitar and play in front of people."

Gunderson's musical background is blues, because it is what he learned to play when he first started.

One Soldier who is on

the opposite spectrum of the blues sound is Sgt. Phillip Clark, transporter and acoustic guitar, 2nd Mechanized Battalion, 2nd

Tank Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division's Military Transition Team.

"I typically play hard rock, but lean

towards pop sometimes," said Clark. "I love music. All I have is music. It is all I do to relax after missions. I don't have a Play Station 2 or an Xbox. If I could live

in the chapel, I would have all of my music equipment with me. Sometimes inspirations come out at the weirdest times."

Clark has been playing for 15 years and even recorded an EP with a group called the Ever Spinning Reel.

The group's drummer has the talent to play any song no matter the style of music.

"I am what you call a freelance drummer," said Spc. Eric Claude, logistics specialist and drummer, Co. A, 4th Support Battalion. "It is a God given talent. I would not be able to play without Him. I love to play. I am just happy to play for God and it is God sent that I spoke to the chaplain and he was able to get me a drum set out here."

"We hope to lay down a few tracks on a recording, and see what happens," said Gunderson. "It is somewhat hard to get everyone involved because of the hectic schedules and missions we go on."

"Our long term goal is to do an actual recording so we could put ourselves out there in the industry," Claude said "That is our main goal. With God on our side anything is possible."



# Iraqi Army graduates new basic training class, ready for GWOT

By Maj. David Olson  
1st BCT PAO

A new crop of trained soldiers joined the ranks of the 9th Iraqi Army Division after completing basic training Feb. 21 at the Taji Training Center.

At a ceremony filled with fanfare, pageantry and British drill and ceremony, 83 new Jundis (privates) graduated from the five-week basic training academy on Camp Taji.

"I order you, brave sons of the great Iraq, to strike with an iron fist anyone who would dare disturb the security of your country," Iraqi Capt. Hamed Baker Ibraheem, the assistant commander of the Taji Training Center, charged the new graduates in the commencement speech. "You are to be the shield against terrorists. Congratulations, for this your honor will be mentioned in our history for many years to come."

A number of distinguished guests were on hand to view the ceremony. One of the distinguished visitors was Iraqi Col. Alla Ahmed, post



U.S. Army photo by Maj. David Olson

**Iraqi soldiers, who just graduated from basic training, join the ranks of the 9th Iraqi Army Division at Camp Taji, Iraq, Feb. 21. The crop of new recruits will now be an integral part of the War on Terror.**

commander for Camp Taji. Ahmed presented certificates to four expert marksmen recognizing their accomplishment.

"We started the basic training class with 86 personnel," explained Staff Sgt. Michael Munoz, operations sergeant for the academy, "but we finished with 83. Almost all of the training was conducted by the Iraqi army instructors." Soon the academy will be turned over completely to the Iraqi army.

One of the Jundis explained what he learned. "We have done a lot of

things that we've never seen before. We learned to do things outside the base such as check points and clearing rooms." They also learned first aid tasks, rifle marksmanship and a lot of drill and ceremony.

"All these graduates belong to the 9th Iraqi Army Div.," said Sgt. 1st Class Marvin Green, non-commissioned officer in charge of the basic training academy. After the ceremony, the graduates check into their units. Then they go on leave to spend time with their families.

One of the Jundis

commented afterwards, "I'm thankful for completing the training. I'm happy now. I'm looking forward to going home to see my family."

Another of the Jundis offered other insights. "We thank everybody in the academy. We received very good training from friendly instructors and received great experience from the American advisors."

In closing, Ibraheem thanked many who had supported the basic training academy. "A special thanks to the Americans for giving us unlimited support."



# Combined Air Insertion mission nets suspected IED placers

*Iraqi, U.S. forces conduct first air insertion operation nabbing terrorists*

By Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt  
Editor, Raider Review

Soldiers from the 9th Iraqi Army Division and Company B, 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division conducted an air insertion raid for improvised explosive device materials and the individuals who place them at Taji, Iraq, Feb. 17.

The combined mission netted three suspects and the materials for making IEDs. Also, this was the first time Iraqi and American troops have conducted an air insertion mission together.

"Training the Iraqis is just the same as training American troops," said Capt. Mark Paine, commander of Co. B, 1st Bn., 66th AR. "Troop leading procedures is the key, and the Iraqi army has incorporated that into what they do.

"Their motivation and esprit de corps is very high," Paine added. "As long as we prepare for missions like we do in the



U.S. Army photo by PH2 Bradley Sapp

Taken from a night vision lens, Soldiers with the 9th Iraqi Army Division and Company B, 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division conducted an air insertion mission in Taji, Iraq, Feb. 17 looking for improvised explosive device materials and the individuals who place them. This is the first time they have conducted an air insertion mission together.

American Army, then the Iraqi army performs exceptionally well."

Currently, the 1st BCT is working hand in hand with the Iraqi army to teach, coach and mentor them. The goal of the 1st BCT is to have the 9th IA Div. fully functional and taking control of the 1st BCT battle space.

To accomplish this goal,

the Iraqis are taking the lead in every operation. In addition, military transition teams are assigned to work hand in hand with the Iraqis to mentor key leaders within the Iraqi command group staff.

Operations such as this, allow the Iraqi army to take the lead while the U.S. slowly takes a step back putting an Iraqi face on

every operation. This is a new concept and quite a change to many of the American Soldiers, who are now working daily with the Iraqi troops.

"My Soldiers work great with the Iraqis," Paine said with a lot of motivation in his voice. "We spend everyday with the Iraqi soldiers out there working together and when it comes to actions on the objective, we work together as a team.

"The Iraqi soldiers want to do well," Paine continued. "They understand how important these operations are. My Soldiers working together with them has always been a great group."

Operations like this are just another step towards preparing the Iraqi army to take-up the defense and security of Iraq.

"The biggest goal is to let them see how it's done correctly and I think the Americans did a good job in doing that," said 1st Lt. Mario Bonifacio, senior military transition team trainer with Co. B. "It also gives them (the Iraqi army) a bigger and bigger piece of the pie."

# Iraqi army, Raider team help out with Community Health Outreach

By Maj. David Olson  
1st BCT PAO

During the recent and highly publicized sectarian tensions between Sunni and Shia factions, a group of Iraqi and American Soldiers pushed aside the apprehension to conduct a community health outreach program north of Baghdad, Feb. 23.

The 1st Mechanized Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division and elements of 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment and 4th Support Battalion from the 1st Bde. Combat Team, 4th Infantry Div. conducted a combined operation to provide much needed medical care to a local Iraqi Sunni community, relieving tensions in the area while simultaneously fostering hope in a unified Iraq.

"The Iraqi Army Soldiers said they made more money today than they have in weeks and months with the people," said Lt. Col. Charles Payne, the 1st Mech. Bde., 9th IA Div. senior advisor. "They were able to get a lot of feedback from the Iraqi people."

About 85 local civilians showed up for free medical treatment. They formed a single line and were ushered forward to the waiting medical personnel. Two medical professionals saw the customers with the support of several medics.

"I treated a number of Osteoarthritis, upper respiratory infections and ear infections," said Capt.



U.S. Army photo by Maj. David Olson

1st Lt. Salbata Mansaray, the physician's assistant from HHC, 4th Spt. Bn., 1st BCT checks the throat of a young girl during the combined community health outreach program operation north of Baghdad, Feb. 23. The team saw about 85 local civilians.

Edward Barnes, the 1st Bn., 66th AR surgeon.

"We treated sun sensitivity irritation, joint issues and various other things," said 1st Lt. Salbata Mansaray, the physician's assistant from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Support Bn. More importantly, they treated the symptoms of a people needing hope in a future Iraq. And like the security on this dusty field north of Baghdad, the future of a stable Iraq is secured by the professional conduct of Soldiers from the Iraqi Army.

"I'm very grateful to come out today," said Rammy, an interpreter with 1st Mech. Bde., 9th IA Div. "I delayed my vacation to come out to help support this operation. It's enjoyable for me (to help the Iraqi people)."

After the medical personnel set-up the litters in an open field, a convoy of Humvees rolled up and down the roadways of the village announcing the event over a loud speaker using Rammy's taped invitation. Excited villagers walked to the CHOPS site  
*(go to page 16, Iraqi)*



# 1BCT leaders meet Tarmiyah leaders to discuss local security

By Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt  
Editor, Raider Review

A security council meeting, or Qada, was held Feb. 25 in Tarmiyah, Iraq, between a local sheik, leaders of a small community north of Baghdad and members of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

The meeting is held weekly, but this week as tensions rise in Iraq much of the heated discussion was sparked by the Golden Shrine bombing in Samarra, Iraq, leaving more than 100 innocent Iraqis dead. The bombing has increased tension between the Sunni and Shia factions with some speculating a civil war escalating in retaliation for the bombing of the 1,200-year-old Askariya shrine.

"This is an important time in Iraq's history," said Col. James Pasquarette, commander of the 1st BCT. "Meetings like this get leaders to discuss how we can deal with problems without violence. I believe most people in Tarmiyah want to live in peace. "Terrorists blew up the mosque in an effort to get the Shia and Sunnis to start



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt

A city council meeting, or Qada, was held in Tarmiyah, Iraq, Feb. 26, to discuss issues the local community is having with security and terrorist problems in the aftermath of the Golden Shrine bombing in Samarra, Iraq. The terrorist attack killed more than 100 Iraqi men, women and children.

a war," Pasquarette added. "We will work together to fix this problem.

"I would like to improve the police force first," he said. "I'm optimistic that if we work together we can make this area more secure and get rid of the bad people who live here."

Currently, the area remains relatively calm, because the Iraqi government is providing a safe and secure environment for the citizens of the community. The government has recalled all Iraqi army and police personnel from leave and

established a curfew from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. to help protect the Sunni and Shia from violence. Coalition forces are supporting the Iraqis with an increased presence in the area.

"We are going to pass some sort of temporary law where guards can carry weapons inside the mosque," said Sheik Sayed Jasime, who is very concerned about the security of people who just want to pray. "The guards don't get paychecks, they volunteer.

"The bombing of the mosque was a terrorist

attack," added the sheik. "I'm ready to help you if you (Coalition forces) and the Iraqi army support us."

"Eventually, we would like for the guards not to carry weapons inside the mosque," said Lt. Col. Rocky Kmiecik, commander of the 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st BCT whose troops support the Iraqi army's patrol of the area. "We would like for the Iraqi army to guard them."

One Iraqi man asked when the weapons would be returned to them, so — (go to page 17, meeting)

# Iraqi, U.S. forces man Taji entry point

(continued from page 6)

The most difficult situations are when innocent people are hurt. They take thorough reports and pass the information to appropriate authorities who are in a position to help.

Cpl. Christopher Garza from Company A recalls an event when a man and his grand daughter recently came to the checkpoint for help.

The man's son was physically abusing the family and stole his land, car and money. To make matters worse, the son had recently joined with the insurgent forces fighting the Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces. Luckily the Soldiers took a very detailed report that was relayed to Iraqi Authorities and the man is now a wanted criminal.

The American Soldiers are jointly responsible for the check point along with the IA; however, the Iraqi Soldiers are always at the forefront.



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Douglas Wilbur

**Iraqi soldiers inspect a civilian vehicle at Gunner Gate trying to gain access to Camp Taji, Iraq. Iraqi soldiers are the main guard effort while U.S. Soldiers supervise.**

They create a visible presence that reassures passing motorists. The "Straight Arrows" monitor and coach

the Iraqis while they identify vehicles to be pulled over for a quick inspection.

## Steven Seagal moves taught to Soldiers

(continued from page 7)

Major Nguyen also teaches us some self-defense techniques that are practical to real world scenarios like dealing with detainees or insurgents."

Aikido stands out from the rest of the martial arts by employing a defensive style instead of the usual force-on force martial arts that saturate the martial arts scene most of us see today.

"The hardest thing for me to remember is to constantly be in motion and keep the attacker off balance," said Hudson. "Using your center of gravity against your opponent's center of gravity and throwing them off-balance goes

against American culture's force-against-force concept that has been adopted through the years."

"One of the hardest concepts for beginners is learning how to properly break a fall and that being soft and gentle is better than being hard," said Nguyen. "Breaking falls is unnatural because we as humans resist being off balance. Also, it is much easier to use force. Forcing things will always be there. To be able to use the other person's energy for you to attack, you have to be softer and gentler."

Beginners also believe when they get into Aikido they will be able to perform the flashy techniques used by Steven Seagal in some of his movies.

"Steven Seagal is a very good Akidoka in real life," said Nguyen. "In Hollywood though, you have to make the techniques look flashy, while in real life, it only takes one or two simple techniques to disable an opponent or to step out of their line of attack. There are no real flashy kicks or punches although we do train in both techniques.

"Aikido is for everybody," said Nguyen. "It is universal, in which anyone small or tall, skinny or big can practice it. Its true art is being the best that you can be. There is no competition, and no ego and you just try to better yourself as a person through the practice of Aikido."



# Operation Arch Angel gets Iraqi army ready for control of Coalition space

(continued from page 6) — of three heavy tank brigades each consisting of almost 4,000 soldiers.

Two of the brigades are already patrolling the area, fighting Anti-Iraqi Forces, and detaining suspected criminals either by themselves or with some American backing. The third brigade is scheduled to be fully operational in the next couple of months after Iraqi cadets complete basic training to fill the ranks.

The goal of the 1st BCT is to have the 9th IA Div. fully functional and taking control of the 1st BCT battle space. To accomplish this goal, the Iraqis are taking the lead in every operation. In addition, military transition teams are assigned to work hand in hand with the Iraqis to



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt

**Two Iraqi officers gather identification from suspected Anti-Iraqi Forces illegal arms dealers at the combined cordon and search Operation Arch Angel on the local streets near Taji, Iraq, Feb. 5.**

mentor key leaders within the Iraqi command group.

Operations, such as this, allow the Iraqis to take the lead while the U.S. takes a step back putting an Iraqi face on every operation. This is a new concept and quite a change to many of the American Soldiers, who are now on their second

tour of duty in Iraq.

“There are a lot of changes this time around,” said Sgt. Scott Drzewiecki, gunner with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment, 1st BCT, who is seeing his second tour in Iraq. “There is a lot more Iraqi army and

the police are out more.

“Overall, I’ve seen a lot of positive things out of the Iraqi army,” Drzewiecki said who hails from Michigan City, Ind. “It’s a slow process, but they are going to get there.”

“It’s a lot better over here than the first time,” agreed Spc. Michael Gibson, a mortarman with HHC, 1st Bn., 66th AR. “Now, the Iraqi army and the police are starting to take control.”

Not only do the American Soldiers have high hopes for the future of Iraq, but Iraqi soldiers think their country is getting better.

“I think Iraq and the Iraqi army is getting much better,” said Kadum. “It is a lot better than when Saddam was in charge.”

## MPs working long hours, but loving job

(continued from page 7) — elements of the 1st BCT and the Camp Taji area; such as Civil Affairs, Public Affairs, Information Operations and Human Intelligence Collection Teams.

The working schedule for the MP Platoon, like most combat units who are deployed to a combat zone, is a 24-hour, seven day a week mission. The platoon is split into three teams, all of which are composed of three vehicles and 12 personnel.

The MPs make up most of the combat power for the battalion, conducting mounted and dismounted patrols. They are contributing to the mission of the 1st BCT in a very direct way, ensuring routes are safe for other Soldiers to travel and the local population is safe.

Once combat patrols are finished for the shifts, Soldiers conduct preventive maintenance checks and services on their vehicles and weapons. They do this to ensure their

equipment is serviceable and will function properly the next time they go out on a mission.

Working seven days a week can take its toll on anyone, but Soldiers of the MP Platoon perform their mission without complaint.

“Its long hours and we work every day, but I love my job,” said Spc. Richard LaBonte, an MP with the 1st STB. “This is what being a Soldier is all about - find the bad guys and eliminate them.”

# Iraqi army, 1BCT help local populace

(continued from page 12)

where medical personnel remained busy seeing patients for several hours.

“It makes me sad to see all these (hurting) people,” said Spc. Grant Claassen, a medic with HHC, 1st Bn., 66th AR. “The reason I became a medic was to do things like this.” In addition to first class medical care, patients received new blankets and children received comic books and CDs.

“Today, we do this out of kindness for the people,” said Col. Saad Abu Safe, the deputy commander of 1st Mech. Bde., 9th IA Div. “We want to achieve our mission. We want to be friendly with the people. We want the people to love us.



U.S. Army photo by Maj. David Olson

**Capt. Edward Barnes, surgeon with HHC, 1st Bn., 66th AR cleanses the inner ear of a middle-aged man during the combined community health outreach program operation north of Baghdad, Feb. 23.**

“We consider this a victory against the insurgency,” added Saad. “We coexist with the people. (Our mission) is to secure the people. This time we’re doing it

medically.”

Sgt. Maj. Abdul-Kadhum Turkey, the senior enlisted Soldier in 1st Mech. Bde., 9th IA Div., agreed. “We consider this a wonderful day. We did

this with the help of our American friends. The people are saying how respectable we are. The people are inviting us to their homes for lunch. The Soldiers are pleased to provide humanitarian help to the people.”

In this small part of Iraq, all the media hype of sectarian turmoil dissolved due to the combined efforts of the 9th Iraqi Army Div. and the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

For the people of this little village a brighter future showed itself on the horizon, a safe and secure Iraq forged inside an increased trust between Citizen and Soldier of different sects, but unified in an intense belief of a shared tomorrow.

## Tulips stand 'at ease,' don't wilt in the sun

—(continued from page 3)  
bubbas may think you’re half-psycho to go running towards someone who’s shooting at you.

But in fact, its one of the most disciplined acts a Soldier can perform. You’re doing your part fighting as a member of a squad, section or platoon and life does not get any better than that.

So, where does the young Soldier turn to find this kind of discipline?

I think it’s got to be someone in their chain of command setting the example, preferably someone close to their age.

You know what the Soldier thinks of us old guys.

I heard one Soldier say it’s like being in a locked cage with a psycho gorilla. They’ll say anything just to keep the gorilla calm.

Most believe we are reproduced by fusing Government Issued (GI)

cells at a secret government laboratory. I just tell them to “at ease” that noise cause I’ve been in the Army longer than they’ve been alive and there is no such laboratory. Everyone knows it’s all done at the Battalion Aid Station.

Nope, I think it’s the young leader that has the best chance to teach the

Soldier how to lead a disciplined life. Someone to show them how to live on the edge, what the edge

looks and feels like, and not even think about stepping across that line cause it may get them injured.

It’s the imparting of knowledge born from years of experience that grabs a Soldiers attention. The Soldier hears the truth in your words.

So stand “at ease” little Tulip, and listen to your leaders.

Some of those gorillas may actually know what they’re talking about.



# Respect for Iraqi citizens vital to mission

——— (continued from page 2)

fixed within your means – others will require years and millions of dollars. But the bottom line is that he will feel he is being heard – and you will have a better appreciation of their concerns and what must be done about them. Third, I want you to show respect for the citizens of Iraq. Respect is immeasurably important in this society. If the Iraqi citizens perceive that you lack respect for them, you will get nowhere with them. Given this is one of our Army Values, we all should have no problem with this. I do see, however, some of us acting and talking about Iraqis in a disrespectful manner. Police this up around your unit if it is happening.

OK – give this incredibly complex environment – how are we doing? The simple, straightforward answer is as follows: we are doing fantastically well! I could not be happier with

how the Raider Brigade has started off this tour of duty in Iraq. I see you every day operating in the most challenging environment – and making the right decision with little or no guidance from higher every time. I see Soldiers that are disciplined, proud and professional – a great example to their Iraqi Army counterparts. I see NCOs that are in charge, enforcing standards, and leading from the front. I see our officers dealing with the local Iraqi civil and military leadership with aplomb. For all this, I thank you for what you are doing. Keep it up – we are making a big difference – and the people of Iraq are going to be much better for it one day.

Finally, EML (mid- tour leaves) have started. I want you all to enjoy a well deserved break from the Army. Be smart and act responsibly. Don't try to jam three months of fun into

two weeks. The 4th ID has lost a Soldier on EML due to an auto accident. Although I don't have the details, I'm guessing it was late at night, speed and alcohol were involved, and he probably wasn't wearing a seatbelt. Have a great time, but make sure you come back to your friends here in Iraq!

In closing, what you are doing as a Soldier in the U.S. Army at this point in our nation's history is incredibly important. I thank you for volunteering to serve. I look forward to seeing you around Taji or the operating area. Stay safe...

Colonel Jim Pasquarette  
Raider 6



# Meeting held in wake of shrine bombing

(continued from page 13)

they can defend themselves.

"The Iraqi army will not be taking your weapons anymore," said Kmiecik. "(Brig.) General (Nazzal) Kassim (commander of the 1st Mechanized Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division) has talked with his soldiers and they will not be doing that anymore. General Kassim has a list of whose weapons they have and he will be returning them."

Security for Iraqi workers is another local concern. One man noted

that terrorism is a real problem in the neighborhood and many are afraid to work because terrorists make threats toward Iraqis who are trying to make a living for their families and make Iraq a better place to live.

"I will get with General Kassim, so his troops can protect the workers," said Kmiecik. "We are very concerned for the safety of everyone in this town."

Although tensions were high due to security, all participants vowed to



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt

Local community leaders from Tarmiyah, Iraq, sit in at the Qada to discuss security issues in the wake of the Golden Shrine bombing.

continue to work together to not only solve community problems together, but unify

the people of Iraq into a nation where freedom is their common bond.

# Iraqis fire 125mm rounds downrange

(continued from page 1)

The tanker school taught Iraqi soldiers communications, driving the tank, shooting the T-72's arsenal of weapons and how to deal with terrorists. The course was two months long and concludes with the tank gunnery exercise. The class was taught by the 2nd Tank Bn., 2nd Tank Bde., 9th IA Div. Military Transition Team, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

"These guys are great, and there are a lot of young ones who are really trying hard," said Maj. Scott Davis, 2nd Bn., 2nd Bde., 9th IA Div. Military Transition Team. "We are here grading them to see how they do. These guys are really proud of these tanks."

The 1st BCT is working closely with soldiers of the 9th IA Div. to teach, coach and mentor them. The Taji-based Iraqi division is composed of three heavy tank brigades each consisting of almost 4,000 soldiers.



Graduates from the Iraqi army Tank Course stand proudly in front of their T-72 MBT.



U.S. Army photos by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt

A Russian-made T-72 Main Battle Tank gets ready to fire at Butler Range, Iraq, at the 2nd Tank Bn., 2nd Tank Bde., 9th Iraqi Army Div. tank gunnery, Feb. 16. Iraqi soldiers went through two months of training and became a qualified tanker after completion.

Two of the brigades are already patrolling the area, fighting the AIF and detaining suspected criminals either by themselves or with some American support. The third brigade is scheduled to be fully operational in the next couple of months after Iraqi cadets complete basic training to fill the ranks.

The goal of the 1st BCT is to have the 9th IA Div. fully functional and taking control of the 1st BCT battle space. To accomplish this goal, the Iraqis are taking the lead in every operation. In addition, military transition teams are assigned to work

hand in hand with the Iraqis to mentor key leaders within the Iraqi command group staff.

The Iraqi tanker school is just another example of military transition teams teaching the soldiers of the Iraqi army to better themselves, so they can defend themselves.

"I have done this for years, so it was easy for me," Abis said, who has been a tanker for 32 years. "We have the same technology today, but before we didn't have the same clear orders. Now we practice and we go to school a lot. We are much better than we were in the past."

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